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Remarks.

The Examiner's comments and objections and the cited references have been carefully considered by the Applicant.

New and amended claims are hereby submitted for approval.

Claim 15 has been deleted.

A new main claim 29 has been drafted that comprises the limitations of claim 15 and further limitations having support in the specification (see pages 3-4, lines 25-30 and 1-7, respectively, and page 6, lines 16-27) and in claims 27 and 20 as previously presented.

No new matter has been introduced.

The feature combination of the new claim is neither disclosed by nor it is rendered obvious by the cited prior art.

The technical advantage of the separate construction of the seat and tubular element, as claimed, is that a caster is provided which can be made, at low costs, with the two parts advantageously made even in different materials (see page 4, lines 8-14) and at dimensions suitable to allow provision of the selective braking means or shock absorbing feature (see for example claim 21 and specification page 7, lines 1-19).

It is eventually submitted that applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's opinion regarding the fact that the one skilled in the art would find obvious to modify the integrated tubular element 21 of Tsai '329 to separate it from the base body 2.

It will be noted, in this respect, that the basic teaching of '329 and the very technical problem it solves regard exactly avoiding the supporting body of the caster to have a separate rotating tubular element therein, *since noise may substantially be producedand causestuck against the base ...resulting in unsmooth rolling...* (see specification of '329, par. [0005].

Clearly, '329 teaches away from the two part construction.

As regards the rationale for the rejection of claim 16, it is submitted that, actually, in '329, securing of the castors 3 on the base 2 is taught to be performed by way of the beads 50 that are accommodated in the groove 22 of the base 2 and in the groove 31 of the castors 3. The grooves 32 of the castors 3 are only for securing the flanges 40 of the fixing rings 4 (see specification, page 1, par. [0019] and figures 2 and 4)

Thus, '329 fails to disclose the limitations of claim 16.

Accordingly, it is believed that the new and amended claims are allowable.

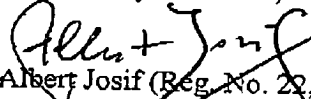
Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

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It will be noted that a sincere effort has been made to positively respond to all of the points raised by the Examiner.

While it is believed that the amended claims properly and clearly define the present invention, applicant would be open to any suggestion or amendment the Examiner may have or propose concerning different claim phraseology which, in the Examiner's opinion, more accurately defines the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,


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